



## Success Story

# Health Logistics Students Gain Valuable Quantification Skills



François Minougou

USAID | DELIVER PROJECT staff (center) working with students during the course.

**This was “...one of the best courses that we have had.” — Mariam Galbany Traore, health logistics training coordinator at NSPH**

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Competently trained supply chain professionals are essential to well-functioning public health supply chains, yet many countries struggle to build the capacity of health logistics professionals and to formalize their roles in supply chain management.

The National School of Public Health (NSPH) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (a Ministry of Health institution) is working with Bioforce to develop and implement a two-year master’s degree program in health logistics. This program is being supported by funding from France’s 5% Initiative, which is a new way for France to contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. As part of the degree program, the NSPH requested technical and financial support from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT to develop and teach a course in the quantification of health products.

With funding from USAID West Africa, the project worked with the school to adapt the project’s existing quantification curriculum to become a 60-hour professional training course. The course was first offered in February 2015 with technical assistance from the project. The course curriculum covers the full quantification process for health products (including forecasting and supply planning). The course combines theory with in-class practical exercises, and gives students the opportunity to practice the full forecasting and supply planning process for contraceptives as their final project. In order for the curriculum to reflect the realities in the field as much as possible, two quantification experts working in health logistics in Burkina Faso were invited to give presentations.

The course was offered to all 11 second-year students, who are pharmacy assistants from Burkina Faso. All students completed the course and said that the course objectives were well met. One of the students stated that he most appreciated the “methodology” and “relevance of the course,” as well as the fact that “the experts were very eloquent.” Mariam Galbany Traore, the health logistics training coordinator at NSPH, stated that the course was “one of the best courses that we have had.”

This training program is essential for Burkina Faso and the sub-region. It fills a void that existed up until now and has the potential to become a center of learning in health logistics for Francophone African countries. Although the first graduating class is comprised of students from Burkina Faso, enrollment in the degree program is open to students from all African countries, and the current first-year class includes students from other countries. The project and NSPH are discussing plans to continue to build the capacity of two of the school's lecturers so that the course can continue to be taught in coming years.

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**USAID | DELIVER PROJECT**

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